

## Region 8 Survey on EPA/ATSDR Relationship

1. Are there specific needs that you have where ATSDR could be of assistance (e.g., health messaging, support on specific chemicals, etc.)?

**I am interpreting this question to mean "Are there needs that Region 8 with regard to ATSDR assistance that are not currently met?"**

**No - Region 8 is very happy with the assistance ATSDR provides from the Regional office with regard to assistance in public meetings, health consults, health messaging, etc. However, assistance in the form of Public Health Assessment developed by the Atlanta office have not been as timely as we would hope and have been rather costly. The recent addition of a toxicologist to the regional ATSDR staff may resolve this issue.**

2. Have you implemented any of the recommendations that resulted from last year's survey (see below)? If so, has your relationship with ATSDR improved as a result?

- Engage in regular work planning & cross-attendance at each other's meetings

**Region 8 staff routinely attends ATSDR meetings at the Region. In addition, a Region 8 Liaison has been assigned to interface with ATSDR to facilitate coordination between Region 8 and ATSDR. ATSDR Regional Staff meet routinely with EPA/R8 ARA and program management staff.**

- Early, as well as post-remedy, involvement is key and should happen more often – e.g., scoping the work plan and development of sampling strategies, five-year reviews

**When appropriate, Region 8 staff work with ATSDR Regional staff to discuss site-specific planning. ATSDR regional staff have provided technical assistance to R8/SSAB (e.g. Murray Laundry and East Side Springs and ATK, UT) Montana Office assists EPA at several 5yr reviews-BNSF Somers, Basin Mine, Montana and RMA, Colorado)**

- Allow for more review time, while balancing public perception of ATSDR-EPA relationship

**Region 8 has worked very hard to ensure that EPA and ATSDR work together and speak with one voice. (e.g. Pavillion)**

- Hold joint public meetings

**We often work to schedule joint public meetings when possible.**

- Have decision-makers at meetings to address community concerns when they arise

**When appropriate, Regional decision-makers attend public meetings.**

- Communicate limitations early and often and time frames for completion of work

**We routinely communicate with one another regarding scheduling and work products.**

- Consider training or orientation for non-Superfund programs that do not work with ATSDR on a regular basis (e.g., Brownfields, RCRA, Air, Water)

**ATSDR regional staff review and score EPA Brownfields Grant Applications. Other non-Superfund regional programs are aware of the potential for assistance from ATSDR.**

- Work on environmental justice, approaches together

**Attended National EPA EJ/CARE conference in Denver, attended EPA/EJ Stakeholds Meeting, Accompanied EPA San Luis/Alamosa, CO and presented ATSDR Brownfields Pilot Grants w/EPA Program (SSAB, Pesticides, EJ, Brownfield, etc)**

3. Do you have in place a formal coordination mechanism with ATSDR (e.g., regular meetings/calls) or is your interaction on an ad hoc basis? If you have a formal mechanism, please describe it.

**Region 8 has assigned a Liaison to interact on a regular basis with the ATSDR Regional reps. The Liaison interacts regularly with ATSDR, attends ATSDR meetings and coordinates activities. This**

**method of interaction has helped the relationship between the two organizations and has helped prevent miscommunications and misdirection.**

4. Were you aware that ATSDR recently underwent a reorganization that will result in additional FTE in the regional offices? In some regions, the additional FTE are already on board. Has this resulted in any changes in your relationship with ATSDR?

**Through our Regional Liaison, ATSDR has kept Region 8 informed of the reorganization. Since we already work very closely with them, the reorganization has not impacted our relationship. We hope that the new organization will help ensure work requested of ATSDR will stay within the Region to ensure timely responses.**

5. Finally, please describe the greatest benefit you see from working with ATSDR.

**Working with ATSDR and having them assist EPA in community interactions helps provide assurances to communities that the decisions we make have an extra level of peer and partner-agency support. ATSDR provides critical public health assistance in communities using resources EPA does not possess**

Direct Regional funding of ATSDR regional representatives for cell phones, Blackberry's or other equipment?

**Blackberry- 3 phones @ \$4504/year**